

KCC 4767 (K-C 17,080)
PATENTAmendments to the Claims:

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Withdrawn) A disposable absorbent article comprising:

a body having first and second regions;

a mechanical fastening system on the body, the mechanical fastening system comprising a first fastening component disposed on the body in the first region and a second fastening component disposed on the body in the second region, at least a portion of the first fastening component being a hook material, and at least a portion of the second fastening component being a loop material which is stretchable from a relaxed state to an elongated state;

whereby when the second fastening component is in an elongated state and in juxtaposition and contact with the first fastening component the loop material engages the hook material as it moves from an elongated state to a relaxed state.

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2. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 1 wherein the loop material is stretchable by about 150 to 300 percent.

3. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 1 wherein the loop material is stretchable by about 300 to 450 percent.

4. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 1 wherein the second fastening component is elastomeric.

5. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 1 wherein the first fastening component is stretchable.

6. (Withdrawn) A disposable absorbent article for personal wear, said disposable article comprising:

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a body having first and second end regions and comprising an inner layer for contact with the wearer's skin, at least a portion of the inner layer being liquid permeable, an outer layer in opposed relation with the inner layer, and an absorbent layer disposed between the inner layer and the outer layer;

5 a mechanical fastening system positioned on the body including:

10 a first fastening component disposed on the body in the first end region, at least a portion of the first fastening component being a hook material, and

15 a second fastening component disposed on the body in the second end region, at least a portion of the second fastening component being a loop material which is stretchable and contractible;

20 whereby when the second fastening component is in an elongated state and in juxtaposition and contact with the hook material it further engages the hook material as it moves from an elongated state to a contracted state.

7. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 6 wherein the loop material is stretchably mounted on the second end region.

8. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 6 wherein the loop material is stretchable by about 150 to 300 percent.

9. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 6 wherein the loop material is stretchable by about 300 to 450 percent.

10. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 6 wherein the loop material forms at least a portion of the second end region.

11. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 10 wherein the loop material is stretchable by about 150 to 300 percent.

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12. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 10 wherein the loop material is stretchable by about 300 to 450 percent.

13. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 6 wherein the second fastening component is elastomeric.

14. (Withdrawn) The article of claim 6 wherein the first fastening component is substantially stretchable.

15. (Withdrawn) A disposable absorbent article for personal wear, said disposable article comprising:

a body having first and second end regions and comprising an inner layer for contact with the wearer's skin, at least a portion of the inner layer being liquid permeable, an outer layer in opposed relation with the inner layer, and an absorbent layer disposed between the inner layer and the outer layer;

a mechanical fastening system positioned on the body including:

10 a first fastening component disposed on the body in the first end region and at least a portion of the first fastening component being a hook material, and

15 a second fastening component disposed on the body in the second end region, at least a portion of the second fastening component being a loop material which is contractible upon the application of heat;

20 whereby when the second fastening component is in juxtaposition and contact with the first fastening component and then heated the second fastening component further engages the hook material as it retracts.

16. (Original) A method of securing an absorbent article for personal wear, comprising:

providing an absorbent article having a body having first and second end regions, the body comprising inner layer for

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5 contact with the wearer's skin, at least a portion of the inner layer being liquid permeable, an outer layer in opposed relation with the inner layer, and an absorbent layer disposed between the inner layer and the outer layer;

10 providing a mechanical fastening system positioned on the body including:

a first fastening component disposed on the body in the first end region, at least a portion of the first fastening component being a hook material, and

15 a second fastening component disposed on the body in the second end region, at least a portion of the second fastening component being a loop material which is stretchable and contractible; and

20 stretching the loop material and then placing the stretched loop material overlying and in engagement with the hook material and then contracting the loop material.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein stretching the loop material is done manually.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the loop material is stretched by about 150 to 300 percent.

19. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the loop material is stretched by about 300 to 450 percent.

20. (Original) A method of securing an absorbent article for personal wear, comprising:

providing an absorbent article having a body having first and second end regions each having longitudinal edges, the body
5 also having an inner layer for contact with the wearer's skin, at least a portion of the inner layer being liquid permeable, an outer layer in opposed relation with the inner layer and an absorbent layer disposed between the inner layer and the outer

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layer;

10 providing a mechanical fastening system positioned on the body including:

a first fastening component disposed on the body of the first end region and at least a portion of the first fastening component being a hook material, and

15 a second fastening component disposed on the body of the second end region, at least a portion of the second fastening component being a loop material which is retractable; and

contacting the loop material in engagement with the hook material and then contracting the loop material.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20 wherein contracting the loop material comprises activating the loop material.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein activating the loop material comprises heating the loop material.

23. (Original) The method of claim 20 wherein the loop material comprises a stretched elastic member having its retraction temporarily inhibited during engagement of the hook and loop materials.

24. (Original) A method of securing an absorbent article for personal wear, comprising:

providing an absorbent article comprising a body having first and second end regions;

5 providing a mechanical fastening system on the body, the mechanical fastening system comprising a first fastening component disposed on the body in the first end region and a second fastening component disposed on the body in the second end region, at least a portion of the first fastening component
10 being a hook material, and at least a portion of the second fastening component being a loop material which is stretchable

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from a relaxed state to an elongated state;
stretching the second fastening component to an elongated
state;

- 15 engaging the first and second fastening component while the
second fastening component is in an elongate state; and
allowing the second fastening component to retract from the
elongated state after the first and second components are
engaged.

~~25~~ 25. (Previously Presented) A method for securing
engagement between fastening components of a pre-fastened
article upon initial assembly thereof, the fastening components
being capable of fastening engagement with each other, the
5 method comprising the steps of:

- arranging the fastening components in at least partially
opposed relationship with each other;
engaging the fastening components with each other to define
an engagement seam; and
10 urging sliding movement of one fastening component relative
to the other fastening component to promote increased engagement
between the fastening components at the engagement seam.

26. (Previously Presented) A method as set forth in claim
25 wherein the step of urging sliding movement of said one
fastening component relative to said other fastening component
comprises contracting said one fastening component relative to
5 said other fastening component following engagement of the
fastening components.

27. (Previously Presented) A method as set forth in claim
26 wherein said one fastening component is elastically
stretchable and retractable, said method further comprising
stretching said one fastening component prior to engaging the

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28 29 5 fastening components with each other, said contracting step comprising releasing said one fastening component following engagement of the fastening components such that said one fastening component retracts relative to said other fastening component.

28. (Previously Presented) A method as set forth in claim 26 wherein said one fastening component is constructed of a contractible material capable of contraction from a relaxed state to a contracted state, said one fastening component being 5 in its relaxed state upon engagement of the fastening components with each other, said contracting step comprising contracting said one fastening component toward its contracted state following engagement of the fastening components.

29. (Previously Presented) A method as set forth in claim 28 wherein said one fastening component is contractible upon the application of heat thereto.